

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 EUR-12 VO-03 FBIE-00

INSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /077 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BC/C:AMISAACS:MG

APPROVED BY ARA/BC:JEKARKASHIAN

ARA/PAF:KMARSHALL

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R 201612Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS STATE 062902

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: QUILAPAYUN VISAS

REF: STATE 062414

FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT NOON BRIEFING
MARCH 19:

Q. MR. FUNSETH, COULD YOU BRING US UP TO DATE ON THE
STATUS OF WHAT WE CALL THE QUILAPAYUN DANCE COMPANY
FROM CHILE -- DUE TO ARRIVE IN BOSTON TODAY, WE UNDER-
STAND -- DENIED VISAS BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT; IS THAT
UNDER REVIEW? HAS THE FINAL DECISION BEEN MADE? IS THIS
VERSION THAT I'M GIVING CORRECT?

A. WELL, LET ME -- FOR THOSE OTHER REPORTERS WHO MAY
NOT BE AWARE OF THE BACKGROUND, THERE IS A CHILEAN
MUSICAL GROUP CALLED QUILAPAYUN.

Q. HOW DO YOU SPELL IT?

A. Q-U-I-L-A-P-A-Y-U-N -- AND THEY ARE A FOLKLORE
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ENSEMBLE.I BELIEVE THEY'RE IN EUROPE.

I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY'VE BEEN OUT OF CHILE SINCE BEFORE THE FALL OF THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT. THEY APPLIED

FOR VISAS TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES; AND AS MEMBERS OF A FOREIGN COMMUNIST PARTY, THEY ARE INELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE VISAS UNDER SECTION 212 (A) 28 OF THE IMMIGRATION ACT.

NOW, YOUR QUESTION WAS: IS THAT BEING RECONSIDERED, OR --

Q. COULD YOU TELL US WHEN THE VISA WAS REFUSED?

A. ABOUT A WEEK AGO.

Q. WHEN THEY WERE NOTIFIED -- AND WHETHER, IN FACT, MR. ROGERS HAS THAT UNDER RECONSIDERATION?

A. IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THEY FIRST APPLIED FOR THE VISA ABOUT A WEEK AGO; AND THERE IS A QUESTION -- WHAT I THINK YOU'RE REFERRING TO AS A RECONSIDERATION, THE ONLY WAY IT COULD BE RECONSIDERED FOR MEMBERS OF A FOREIGN COMMUNIST PARTY IS FOR A WAIVER BE GRANTED. THE QUESTION OF THE WAIVER HAS BEEN RAISED BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OR BY PRIVATE CITIZENS WHO FAVOR THEIR ENTRY, AND IT'S PRESENTLY UNDER REVIEW.

Q. WHY IS IT SO UNUSUAL TO GRANT WAIVERS OF THIS KIND? YOU DO IT ALL THE TIME FOR EAST EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS -- FOR MR. BIJEDIC, PRESUMABLY.

A. WELL, WAIVERS ARE GRANTED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS; AND, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THE DENIAL IS REQUIRED UNDER THE LAW AS MEMBERS OF A FOREIGN COMMUNIST PARTY; AND THEN WHEN A QUESTION OF WAIVERS IS RAISED, IT'S DECIDED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

Q. WELL, I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS CASE. YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT THIS FOKE LORE ENSEMBLE IS, AS IT IS, A COMMUNIST BODY?

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A. NO. THE MEMBERS.

Q. ALL MEMBERS ARE PARTY MEMBERS?

A. THE MUSICIANS ARE MEMBERS OF A FOREIGN COMMUNIST PARTY.

Q. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THAT ORGANIZATION?

A. QUILAPAYUN.

Q. THE FOREIGN COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION?

A. THE CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY.

Q. WHERE ARE THEY RESIDENT AT THIS TIME IN EUROPE?

A. I BELIEVE THEY WERE IN PARIS. I THINK THAT'S
WHERE THEY APPLIED FOR THEIR VISAS.

Q. DO THEY HAVE A CONTRACT HERE TO PERFORM SOMEWHERE?

A. I ASSUME THEY DO, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE INFORMATION --

Q. YOU DON'T KNOW.

A. -- THAT INFORMATION.

Q. IS IT YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY ARE NOW EN ROUTE
TO THIS COUNTRY ON AN AIRPLANE, AT THIS MOMENT -- LANDING
IN BOSTON THIS AFTERNOON?

A. IT'S NOT MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q. WE WERE SO INFORMED.

A. IT'S NOT MY UNDERSTANDING. IF THEY DON'T HAVE VISAS
THEY CAN'T BE ADMITTED.

Q. WELL, WOULD AN AIRPLANE TAKE THEM ABOARD WITHOUT
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A VISA? I DON'T THINK SO.

Q. NOT UNLESS THEY'RE CRAZY.

Q. SINCE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT LAW SO MUCH TODAY, HAS IT
BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THE
CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY -- OR, SHOULD I SAY, COMMUNIST
PARTY OF CHILE -- IS A FUNCTIONING ORGANIZATION IN CHILE
THESE DAYS?

A. WELL, I DON'T THINK THAT'S RELEVANT TO THE QUESTION
OF THIS APPLICATION. BUT, IN ANY CASE, I DON'T KNOW
THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION, BUT I'LL
TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT THE STATUS OF THE CHILEAN COMMUNIST
PARTY IS TODAY.

Q. WELL, YOU SAY -- CAN I CLARIFY ONE THING YOU SAID, SIR? THAT IS, THE DENIAL IS ROUTINE -- IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S --

A. IT'S REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 212 (A) 28 OF THE IMMIGRATION ACT.

Q. WOULD THAT HAVE BEEN THE CASE FOR A VISITING COMMUNIST, SUCH AS MR. BIJEDIC? WOULD HE ORIGINALLY HAVE BEEN DENIED A VISA AND THEN HAVE IT -- WOULD YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE WAIVER PROCEDURE?

A. NO. NORMALLY, FOREIGN OFFICIALS DON'T REQUIRE VISAS ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE062902
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AMISAACS:MG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750098-0571
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750331/aaaabbvi.tel
Line Count: 184
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 062414
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <10 Jun 2003 by MorefiRH, INA>; RELEASED <07 JAN 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2004 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUILAPAYUN VISAS
TAGS: OEXC, CVIS, QUILAPAYUN DANCE COMPANY
To: SANTIAGO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006